MULTI AWARD WINNING!

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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
Farewell to a broadcast pioneer
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Big start to WNBA season
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Queen bees can breathe underwater
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May 22, 2026 • Vol. 7, Issue 318 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

TERRIFIC TURTLES!

Find out about the slow and steady survivors of the reptile world p12

DID YOU KNOW?

- Turtles have lived for about 230 million years.
- There are more than 330 species of many sizes.
- They are found on every continent except Antarctica.

DID YOU KNOW?
Cruise ships carrying more than 500 passengers are not allowed to land in Antarctica.

The MV Hondius cruise ship (with an ambulance boat in front)

A hospital in Nebraska

The National Quarantine Unit in Omaha, Nebraska, is the nation's only federally funded quarantine unit. It opened in November 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic began. Each room has an air pressure system that prevents viruses from escaping, letting staff safely treat people with highly contagious diseases.

Americans exposed to virus land in US

On May 10, about 150 people, including 18 Americans, disembarked in Spain from the MV Hondius, a cruise ship that had experienced an outbreak of hantavirus. They will be carefully monitored for any signs of the virus, which public health officials said has a low risk of spreading.

What is hantavirus?

Hantavirus is a rare group of pathogens (tiny organisms that cause disease) carried by rodents. It's most commonly transmitted by breathing in the particles of dried rodent droppings or urine. The virus does not spread easily, health experts say, and the risk to the general population is low because it goes from person to person only in rare cases and after prolonged contact. The virus causes symptoms similar to the flu, including fever, chills, and headaches. If it worsens, it can cause breathing problems or lung or heart failure. Public health officials do not know how people on the Hondius became infected.

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya

What was the outbreak?

The Hondius left Argentina on April 1 on a cruise to islands in the southern Atlantic Ocean, including Antarctica and the Canary Islands in Spain. The ship was carrying 114 passengers and 61 crew members from 23 countries. On April 6, a passenger developed a fever and headache. His condition worsened, and he died on April 11. His wife later fell ill and died on April 26. On May 2, a third passenger also died. On May 3, after others became ill, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a suspected hantavirus outbreak on the ship. About 30 people had already gotten off, but no one else was allowed to leave. On May 6, however, three more sick people were removed and flown to European hospitals. The Hondius sailed to the Canary Islands, where officials said most of its passengers could disembark.

What happened to people onboard?

Of the Americans onboard, 16 were transported on chartered flights to the National Quarantine Unit in Nebraska. (Quarantine is when someone is isolated to prevent a disease from spreading.) Although none had symptoms, one tested positive for the virus. All were being assessed and observed while quarantined in rooms that are designed to contain viruses (see box above). The other two Americans were flown to Emory University Hospital in Georgia for monitoring. One of them had mild symptoms but tested negative. Another 87 passengers and 35 crew members traveled to their home countries, where they will be monitored. When *The Week Junior* went to press on May 13, the WHO had confirmed nine cases, including one passenger who had returned to France and one to Spain.

How did people react?

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director of the WHO, said, "At the moment, there is no sign that we are seeing the start of a larger outbreak." Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, acting director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, the US agency responsible for public health), said the agency is working with health officials in US states and other countries to monitor the disease. "The risk to the American public is very low," he said. The CDC issued a nationwide alert on May 8 advising medical professionals that other cases were possible. Some public health officials said they were concerned that the CDC was slow to get involved and issue a statement about the virus.

What will happen next?

The Americans in Nebraska and Georgia could stay isolated for up to 42 days, which is how long the virus can take to develop, although the CDC said they may be released before then to self-isolate at home. The Hondius was expected to reach the Netherlands on May 17 with 25 crew members and two medical professionals on board. The ship will be thoroughly disinfected. Meanwhile, global health officials are using contact tracing to identify people who may have come in contact with someone who was exposed to the virus.

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (3); WARNER BROS. GAMES; ALAMY

Rise in inflation is reported

The US Department of Labor announced on May 12 that inflation (the rate of increase in the cost of goods and services) had risen by the largest amount in nearly three years in April. Prices jumped 3.8% from April 2025 to April 2026, mainly caused by a sharp rise in energy prices due to the war in Iran, which began in late February.

Gas prices have increased nearly 30% since last year, with the average price per gallon in the US hitting $4.50. The cost of air travel is up more than 20%, while overall grocery prices have increased by 2.9%. The price of fruits and vegetables has risen steeply, climbing 6.5%, while tomatoes in particular cost nearly 40% more than last year.

The rate of inflation has steadily risen since the Iran war led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, an important shipping route for oil and gasoline. This has reduced global supplies of fuel, making it more expensive and raising the cost of transporting other products like food. When *The Week Junior* went to press on May 13, talks between the US and Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz had stalled.

Produce in Texas on May 11

Ragtime on Broadway

FACT FILE
The Tony Awards are named for Antoinette "Tony" Perry, an actress and director who co-founded the American Theatre Wing, which presents the awards.

Tony Award nominees named

Nominations for the 79th annual Tony Awards, the most prestigious prizes in Broadway theater, were announced on May 5. The awards celebrate the best of the 2025–2026 Broadway season, recognizing achievements in acting, directing, stage production, and other categories.

The musicals *The Lost Boys* and *Schmigadoon!* earned 12 nominations each, and the revival of *Ragtime* received 11. (For more on *Schmigadoon!*, see page 9.) Danny Burstein was nominated for his role in the play *Marjorie Prime*, becoming the most-nominated male performer in Tony history with eight previous nods and a win in 2020. His *Marjorie Prime* co-star, June Squibb, also made history as the oldest Tony nominee ever.

It was a big season for Broadway debuts, with 62 first-time nominees, including every nominee in the best original score (music) and best book (script) categories. First-timer Qween Jean, a costume designer, was nominated for two productions: the play *Liberation* and the musical *Cats: The Jellicle Ball*.

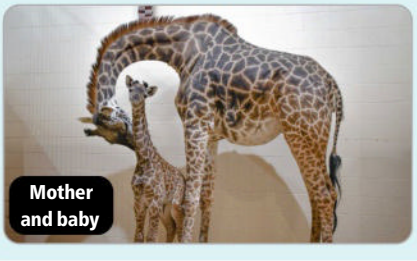
In other notable nods, Daniel Radcliffe (who played Harry in the *Harry Potter* films) received his first Tony nomination for a play, for his lead role in *Every Brilliant Thing*. Radcliffe won a Tony in 2024 for a musical performance. The special Tony Award for educators went to Freddie Hendricks, a middle school theater teacher in Georgia.

The Tony winners will be announced on June 7 at a ceremony at Radio City Music Hall in New York City and broadcast on CBS at 8 p.m. ET. It will be hosted by singer Pink, whose music is featured in two nominated shows.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A BIG ARRIVAL

A Masai giraffe calf was born at the Louisville Zoo in Kentucky, weighing 190 pounds and standing 6 feet 2 inches tall. The baby girl is important for the endangered species and is already "capturing hearts," the zoo said.


Mother and baby

PUZZLE LOVERS

Millions of people play Wordle, *The New York Times* online puzzle, and soon they'll be able to watch it too. NBC said it's creating a Wordle game show hosted by *Today* anchor Savannah Guthrie, who calls herself a "word nerd" and said Wordle is her "daily gaming obsession."

FORMING A BOND

Sunny, a rescued sea otter pup, has been "adopted" by a female otter named Rey, who is teaching her how to eat fish and groom herself. Sunny was found alone at 2 weeks old and brought to a California aquarium, where Rey started caring for her. Sunny, now 16 weeks old, will later be trained to help other pups too.

Rey and Sunny

ON THIS PAGE: MATTHEW MURPHY, GETTY IMAGES; LOUISVILLE ZOO; THE NEW YORK TIMES; ROBIN RIGGS/AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

The US Capitol, where Congress meets

STARTING YOUNG
Maxwell Frost, age 29, is the youngest member serving in the current US Congress, as a Democrat from Florida in the House of Representatives.

Oldest lawmaker in history

Strom Thurmund (above), a Republican from South Carolina, turned 100 while he was a US senator, the only member of Congress to do so. After being elected to the Senate in 1954 at the age of 51, he served for 47 years before retiring in 2003. He died later that year.

Public supports changes to Congress

A new nationwide poll reveals that the majority of Americans support changes to the length of time lawmakers can serve in Congress (branch of government that makes laws). The poll, conducted by NPR, PBS News, and Marist College, surveyed 1,322 people.

What was the poll?

The poll found that eight in 10 people said there should be a mandatory retirement age for lawmakers. Support for this change was strong, with 78% of Democrats, 83% of Republicans, and 79% of Independents in agreement. Another 83% of people surveyed said they favor term limits, which would cap the number of times a member of Congress can run for reelection. Term limits were also popular across the political spectrum, with 78% of Democrats, 89% of Republicans, and 84% of Independents backing the idea.

What are the current laws?

To serve in the House of Representatives (one half of Congress), a member must be at least 25 years old. For the Senate (the other half of Congress), the minimum age is 30. But there are no limits on how old a member can be or how many times they can be reelected. These laws were established by the nation's founders in the Constitution (highest US law) in 1787, when the average life expectancy was about 40 years.

Why do people want changes?

The current Congress is now the third oldest in US history, with 65 as the median (average) age of a senator and 48 as the median age of a House member. The oldest current member of Congress is Senator Chuck Grassley, a Republican from Iowa, who is 92 and has served in the Senate for 45 years. Meanwhile, the median age of a US worker is 42. A majority of poll respondents said they don't think lawmakers understand the challenges younger people face and wish younger candidates for political office were taken more seriously.

Could changes be made?

Making changes to the length of time lawmakers can serve would be challenging because it would require amending the Constitution. An amendment would need to be proposed in Congress and win two-thirds of the votes in the House and Senate, then be ratified by the states.

WORD OF THE WEEK

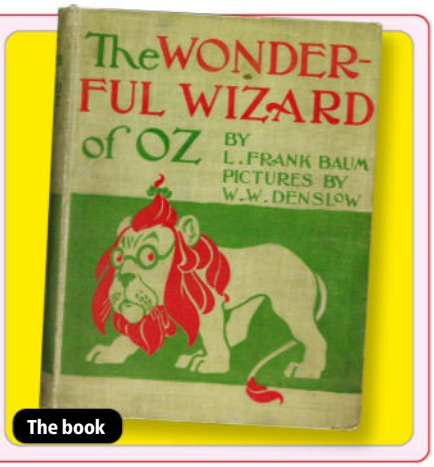
BUMBLEBEE

The bumblebee has gone by many names over the last few centuries, and many of them include "bumble" an old verb that first meant to buzz. The insect has been called a bumbler, a drumble-bee, a humble-bee, a grumbledory, a bombard, and a dumbledore.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

May 17, 1900:
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz is published

On May 17, 1900, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, a children's book by L. Frank Baum, was published. The story of Dorothy in the Land of Oz was a hit and was adapted into a play in 1902. When the film adaptation, *The Wizard of Oz*, was released in 1939, more than 1 million books had been sold. The book and movie inspired *Wicked*, a novel, which was turned into a hit musical and recent films.



The book

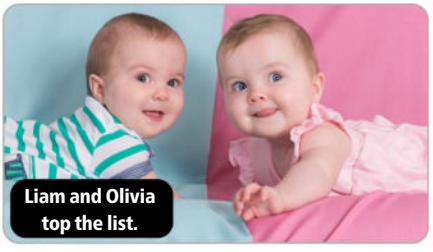
Recess helps students.

Pediatricians speak up for recess

For the first time in 13 years, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has issued guidance on the importance of school recess. It calls for all K-12 students to have at least 20 minutes a day for recess, which has been shown to provide physical and social benefits. Kids also need pauses between periods of learning to retain information, the AAP said. About 40% of US school districts have reduced or eliminated recess since the mid-2000s.

Colorado law to protect animals

Governor Jared Polis has signed a new law that bans pet stores in Colorado from selling dogs and cats. The law, which will take effect in 2027, is meant to stop "the harmful overbreeding of dogs and cats in terrible conditions," Polis said. Colorado joins states such as New York and California that have similar laws. Pet stores will be able to work with shelters to offer animals for adoption.


Liam and Olivia top the list.

Most popular US baby names

In 2025, for the seventh year in a row, Olivia and Liam were the most popular names given to baby girls and boys in the US, according to the Social Security Administration, the US agency that tracks names. The fastest-rising boy's name was Kasai, meaning "fire," and the fastest-rising girl's name was Klarity, a modern spelling of the word clarity.

Ted Turner in 2006

SPORTS ENTHUSIAST
Ted Turner once owned the Atlanta Braves baseball team and the Atlanta Hawks basketball team at the same time.

Innovative media leader remembered

Ted Turner, who revolutionized TV news and later became an environmental philanthropist, died on May 6 at age 87. Turner was known for his groundbreaking ideas that shaped how major events were reported to the world.

Turner was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1938. When he was young, his family moved to Georgia, where his father ran a billboard advertising company. As a teenager, Turner spent summers working on the crews that painted the billboards. In 1963, Turner's father died and he took over the company at age 24. He soon expanded its scope, later renaming it Turner Broadcasting System.

One of Turner's biggest accomplishments was the major change he introduced to TV news. In 1980, he created the Cable News Network (CNN), the first 24-hour all-news network. Critics doubted viewers would want to watch that much news, but CNN soared in the ratings for its live coverage of world events. He later launched other successful channels, including the Cartoon Network and Turner Classic Movies.

In his later years, Turner used his influence to help people and the environment. In 1997, he pledged $1 billion to improve women's and children's health, which, at that time, was the largest charitable gift by an individual. He was also one of the largest private landowners in the US, conserving more than 2 million acres across the West and Great Plains. He owned a herd of more than 45,000 bison, aiming to protect the species and restore grasslands. He was also a supporter of clean energy.

A bison

Following the news of his death, tributes poured in from leaders. Tony Ressler, owner of the Atlanta Hawks pro basketball team, said Turner will be remembered as "a visionary and a force of nature." Brian Kemp, governor of Georgia, said Turner "led a life as big as the American Dream he lived," driving the "nation to new achievements."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Loose dog joins runners in Indianapolis mini-marathon" *UPI*

GETTY IMAGES (6); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY

The crowd in the square

Mexico City, Mexico
Fans welcome K-pop band

About 50,000 fans waited excitedly in Mexico City's main square as Mexican president Claudia Sheinbaum welcomed K-pop group BTS to the National Palace. The South Korean band was in the city to perform three sold-out concerts as part of their Arirang World Tour. After meeting with the president, who said their music "spreads a positive message," the superstars went out on the balcony and thanked the fans for their support.

The IOC's headquarters

Lausanne, Switzerland
Olympic ban on Belarus lifted

After a ban was lifted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), headquartered in Switzerland, Belarus will now be able to compete as a national team in future Olympics. The IOC introduced the ban in 2022, when Belarus let Russia use its territory to launch an invasion of Ukraine. The committee said it has now lifted the restriction because athletes "should not be limited by the actions of their governments."

The Swiss Guard with the pope (center)

Vatican City
New soldiers join Swiss Guard

On May 6, Pope Leo XIV attended a ceremony as 28 new members of the Swiss Guard were sworn in. Known as "the world's smallest army," the Swiss Guard is a group of soldiers responsible for protecting the pope. At the ceremony, the new recruits promised to serve and defend him. Pope Leo thanked them and said he is grateful for their work.

Hanover, Germany
Court case over lounge chairs

A German tourist won about $1,200 in a legal case after struggling to access outdoor seating during a trip to Greece. He said he woke up at 6 a.m. daily to find all the chairs reserved by other guests' towels. The court agreed that the vacation was "defective," saying the tour operator should have stopped people from saving seats they weren't using.

Sun loungers

Rocinha, Brazil
Street decorated

Ahead of the men's soccer World Cup this summer, Brazilian artists worked together with residents to create public art. Painting streets before the international event is a tradition in the city of Rio de Janeiro. The soccer-themed design was painted on a road in Rocinha, one of Rio's largest favelas (low-income neighborhoods). Artist Maria Luiza De Lima told the Associated Press that the painters want to show the world the strength of communities living in favelas.

Painting the artwork

GETTY IMAGES (3); CONGO PROFOUND; SHELDRICK WILDLIFE TRUST; ADOBE STOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK (3); ALAMY

Democratic Republic of Congo
Pedaling for peace

Cyclist Miguel Masaisai has set off on a journey from Congo to Morocco by bike, aiming to spread a message of hope, inspiration, and unity among African youth. Masaisai previously completed a similar challenge, traveling 3,700 miles through several African nations. This time, he is expected to ride more than 8,600 miles across 14 countries.

Tokyo, Japan
Protests against military policy

Anti-war protests have been taking place across Japan. Since shortly after World War II (1939–1945), Japan's constitution (highest law) has required the country to avoid becoming involved in military conflicts. But Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has recently been pushing to strengthen Japan's military and enable the sale of weapons to other countries. These shifts led to the protests by citizens who want Japan to stay out of wars.

Halmahera, Indonesia
Active volcano erupts

A volcano on the island of Halmahera erupted on May 8, causing the deaths of three hikers. They were part of a group of 20 people who were walking on Mount Dukono, one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, when the eruption took place. Rescue teams brought the other 17 members of the group to safety with help from local volunteers. After the incident, the government issued a ban on all climbing activities on the mountain.

Tsavo, Kenya
Baby hippo saved

A baby hippopotamus was rescued by the Kenya Wildlife Service and is now living at a wildlife sanctuary. The hippo, named Bumpy, was orphaned after his mother died when he was a few days old. Keepers from Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, who are taking care of him, said the hippo is "very snuggly" and is "happiest when nestled on or against someone." Once the baby has grown up, he will be released back into the wild.

Chennai, India
Movie star becomes state leader

On May 10, a famous actor named Vijay became the leader of Tamil Nadu state. Vijay, whose full name is Chandrasekaran Joseph Vijay, has starred in 69 films and is among India's best-known actors. Although his party won the election, it had to join forces with other parties to gain enough support to form a government and appoint Vijay as chief minister.

Should kids pay rent to their parents?

Some parents say children are never too young to start contributing.

What you need to know

- **Rent is the money paid to live in a house or apartment when you don't own the home.**
- **Rent dates back thousands of years, beginning in early civilizations when people paid landowners with goods, labor, or money in exchange for farming and living on the land.**
- **Now, in the US, about 42.5 million households pay rent.**
- **Some of the most common chores for children are doing laundry, taking out the garbage, and yard work.**

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT
People in medieval England often paid their rent with eels, which were a common food item at the time.

A dad in Texas went viral after sharing a video about charging his 6-year-old rent. While it wasn't "real" rent to an actual landlord—and it was only $3—the father said he and his wife are teaching their daughter financial responsibility that will serve her well later in life. She pays them out of an allowance, which she earns by doing chores, and has to budget so she has enough rent money each month. Many people cheered for the parents, saying kids are never too young to become savvy about finances. But others said the arrangement put too much pressure on a child. What do you think? Should children pay rent to their parents?

Yes—it's a great way to learn

Having kids pay rent helps them learn money management, budgeting basics, and math. It also prepares them to handle one of the most basic responsibilities of adult life: paying for housing. Even if it's just a few dollars, rent helps kids understand the rewards of working for what we want and need in life. This will help them develop a strong work ethic and appreciate what they have. Besides, kids love pretending and play-acting. Why not use a meaningful but low-pressure way to bring to life big concepts, like finances and self-reliance? They'll have fun doing it and won't even know they're learning!

No—let them be kids

Childhood is a time for carefree fun, exploration, and adventure. Kids should be able to enjoy that for as long as they can without worrying about grown-up responsibilities like paying rent or earning money to cover expenses. Many kids already feel enough stress from school and extracurricular activities, so piling on more pressure can be overwhelming. Why add additional and unnecessary burdens? Parents can still teach responsibility in more age-appropriate ways, like assigning chores, paying kids to do extra jobs, and letting them see you pay bills or buy groceries. They have plenty of time to be an adult later in life.

YES Three reasons kids should pay rent to their parents

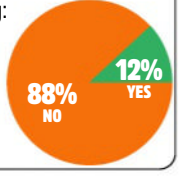
1. **It fosters financial responsibility and gives them real-world experience.**
2. **Paying rent shows kids that if they want something, they have to put in the effort and have a strong work ethic.**
3. **Play-acting is a great way for kids to learn about complex topics and develop concrete skills while having fun.**

NO Three reasons kids should not pay rent to their parents

1. **Kids should be carefree for as long as possible, rather than weighed down with adult responsibilities.**
2. **School and extracurriculars can be stressful enough for kids without them having to contribute to the household.**
3. **There are more age-appropriate ways to teach kids about managing money.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if people should stop traveling by air. A large majority of you are in favor of flying: 88% of you voted no, while 12% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think children should pay rent to their parents or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

From screen to stage

Writer and composer Cinco Paul has created a hit Broadway musical.

Cinco Paul has built a career that weaves storytelling with song. Now he has brought that combination to Broadway with a musical adaptation of his Emmy-winning TV series *Schmigadoon!* It opened on April 4 and runs through September 6 and has earned 12 Tony Award nominations, including Best Book and Best Original Score.

Growing up in Arizona, Paul developed a love for music inspired by his mother, who was a piano teacher and played recordings of 1940s musicals like *South Pacific*. He began making short films with a handheld camera in elementary school. Paul later earned an English degree from Yale University and a master's degree in screenwriting from the University of Southern California.

He found success in Hollywood, co-writing popular animated films including the *Despicable Me* films and *The Secret Life of Pets*. Paul returned to his passion for musicals with *Schmigadoon!*, which he co-created with Ken Daurio. The Apple TV+ show premiered in 2021 and aired for two seasons. The series follows a couple stuck in a magical town where life unfolds like a musical, with characters and songs that playfully reference classics like *Oklahoma!*. Paul won an Emmy Award for the original song "Corn Puddin'."

The Broadway show

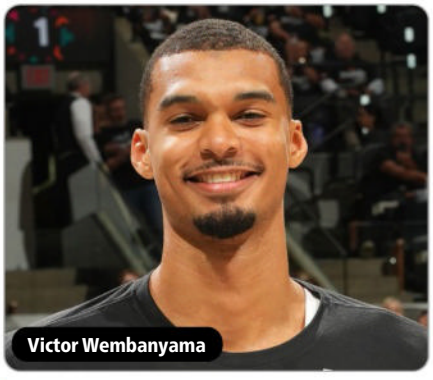
Paul first imagined *Schmigadoon!* as a Broadway show more than 25 years ago. For the stage version, he added 10 new songs and expanded the story. "This is my dream show," he told *Broadway Buzz*. Paul hopes people share in the joy of it. "Everything I do, I want people to laugh—and then suddenly find themselves getting emotional," he said.

Cinco Paul

FUN FACT
Cinco Paul got his name because he was born on May 5, the Cinco de Mayo holiday.

Athlete is honored

Victor Wembanyama, known as Wemby, of the San Antonio Spurs, has become the youngest player to be named the Defensive Player of the Year by the National Basketball Association. He is the first to win it in a unanimous (all in favor) vote by a panel of more than 100 sportswriters and broadcasters. Wemby grew up in France and began playing basketball at age 7. In the 2023 NBA Draft, the Spurs selected him first overall. Wemby, known for his height and rare guard skills, said the award was "a great achievement."


Victor Wembanyama

Matthew Shifrin

Ensuring play for all

Matthew Shifrin of Newton, Massachusetts, is making Lego sets more accessible for people who are blind or visually impaired. He is the founder of the nonprofit Bricks for the Blind, which provides free Braille instructions for more than 500 Lego sets. Since launching in 2023, the group has reached about 3,000 builders worldwide. Shifrin, who is blind, grew up unable to follow Lego's picture-based instructions until a family friend translated a set into Braille, allowing him to build on his own. "Lego bricks enable us to learn about our environment, to see the world," Shifrin said.

OVERHEARD

"We can heal nature. And when we work with it, it works with us."

Amy Bowers Cordalis, environmental attorney and advocate, on her hopes for the future of climate action

ADAM AMENGUAL/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; GETTY IMAGES (2); ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN-BEE-LIEVABLE!
The US has 4,000 different native bee species, ranging from bees smaller than a grain of rice to some the size of a large olive.

A bumblebee drinks nectar after waking up in spring.

Bumblebees breathe underwater

Research has revealed how bumblebee queens can survive in water for as long as a week. They can breathe while underwater and slow their body processes to live with less oxygen.

Bumblebee queens have developed a way of staying alive through harsh winters, and the same method also helps them survive underwater. When cold weather hits, the queens stay underground in small burrows in the soil. For six to nine months, they enter a state called diapause, in which they stop eating, growing, and reproducing. They also breathe less, taking in less oxygen than usual.

A queen in water

In 2024, scientists at the University of Guelph in Canada made an incredible discovery. During a study, a container holding queen bees in diapause was accidentally filled with water. To the researchers' surprise, the bees survived.

It was unclear exactly how long the queens could stay alive in water and how they managed to do it. So members of the same team followed up with new research looking at how the queen bees avoid drowning. The team studied 143 common eastern bumblebees, which were in diapause before being submerged in water.

Researchers were amazed to see the queens breathing underwater. They took in small amounts of oxygen from air bubbles trapped on the body's surface. When they had gone into diapause, they lowered their metabolic rate (how fast the body burns fuel) by about 99%, which meant they needed very little oxygen to survive.

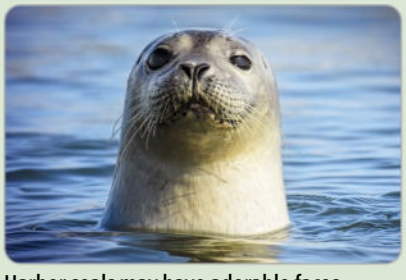
They also used anaerobic respiration, a type of energy production that doesn't require oxygen.

More than 80% of the bees survived in the water for seven days. Once they emerged, it took them two to three days to recover and start moving again.

"Seeing them coming back to life was that moment of relief," said lead author Charles-Antoine Darveau.

Next, the researchers want to find out whether the bees have a special adaptation that lets them breathe underwater, such as a layer of air stored on the outside of the body. Further research could also shed light on whether other bee species have the same survival ability.

Another underwater adaptation



Harbor seals may have adorable faces, but those whiskers have another purpose beyond looking cute. A harbor seal has between 80 and 100 whiskers on its face, and each one is highly sensitive. The wavy-shaped whiskers are chock-full of nerves, with about 1,500 nerve endings.

The nerve endings alert the seal to movements in the water, which help them find prey such as fish swimming in the area. The seals can hunt for a meal hundreds of feet away, even if they can't see it. Research shows that the seals can also determine the direction the fish is swimming and may even be able to tell what type of fish it is.

PARROT PARTIES
Blue-and-yellow macaws often fly around in pairs, but as many as 30 birds may flock together to rest or look for food.

Blue-and-yellow macaws

Macaws return to Rio after 200 years

Conservationists have begun returning blue-and-yellow macaws to the forests around Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, where they have not been documented since 1818. These large, intelligent parrots can be found throughout Brazil and South America, but they were likely driven out of the Rio area by the wildlife trade and deforestation.

The conservation group Refauna is leading an effort to reintroduce the birds into Tijuca National Park. Four macaws have arrived so far. These birds had been illegally held in captivity, so experts have retrained them for life in the wild. This includes helping them rebuild their flying muscles and teaching them to recognize native fruits as food. The birds are being monitored in enclosures inside the park until they are ready to live on their own in the forest.

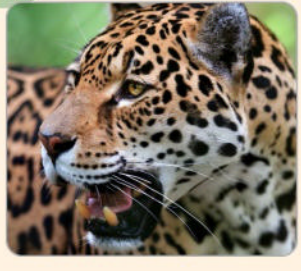
Refauna hopes to bring in another six macaws soon, aiming to have 50 birds in the park by 2030. The project has also reintroduced other species, such as the brown howler monkey and yellow-footed tortoise, as part of broader efforts to restore the forest habitat in the park.

Animal of the week: Nutria

These invasive rodents mysteriously reappeared in California, where they've destroyed waterways and vegetation, about 40 years after they were last eliminated from the state. New evidence suggests that someone likely brought them in from Oregon.

- **LIFESPAN:** Up to 4.5 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Streams and marshes in South America
- **SIZE:** 27 inches long with an 18-inch tail
- **DIET:** Aquatic plants, snails, and mussels
- **FUN FACT:** Nutria have partially webbed back feet and bright orange or yellow teeth.

Good week / Bad week



"Cloud jaguars"
In the Sierra del Merendón mountains in Honduras, a "cloud jaguar" (one that lives at high elevations) was photographed for the first time in 10 years. Experts said the rare sighting is evidence that conservation efforts are working.

Emperor penguins
The International Union for Conservation of Nature, which monitors the risk status of wildlife, has now classified the world's largest penguin species as endangered. The main threat is the loss of sea ice due to global warming.

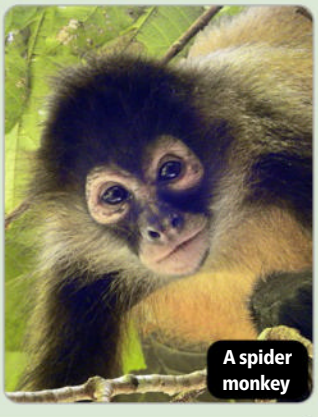
GETTY IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); CHARLES-ANTOINE DARVEAU

ASK AN EXPERT: "How can primates communicate with humans?"

Drishti, 12, Washington

Colleen Daday
Primate and mammal zoologist, Palm Beach Zoo

Primates can communicate with humans through their behavior. Once trust has been established, primates will openly express their emotions with specific behavior or vocalizations. For example, one of our spider monkeys expresses happiness by making high-pitched trilling sounds!



A spider monkey

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out about Palm Beach Zoo at palmbeachzoo.org.

Timeless creatures of

Slow and steady survivors, turtles live almost everywhere in the world.

Turtles have existed for about 230 million years, from the time of the earliest dinosaurs. Let's find out more about these resilient reptiles.

A painted turtle

What is a turtle?

Turtles belong to the reptile group Testudines. Their bodies are encased in a bony protective shell that is made of two parts—the carapace (top) and the plastron (bottom). The shell is part of the turtle's skeleton and is made of more than 50 bones. Turtles don't have teeth. Instead, they crush food with sharp sheaths made of keratin (the same material in human nails). There are more than 330 turtle species, ranging in size from fitting in the palm of your hand to weighing up to about 1,800 pounds. Species include the alligator snapping turtle that has a spiked shell, the painted turtle that has colorful markings, and the pig-nosed turtle, named for its snout.

A Hermann's tortoise

Turtles vs. tortoises

All tortoises are turtles, but all turtles are not tortoises. Turtles mainly live in the water, except when they come to land to lay their eggs, while tortoises are land-dwelling. Tortoises are generally herbivores and use their jaws to munch on leaves, stems, and flowers. Turtles may eat both plants and animals, such as jellyfish, and often swallow their meals whole. Their legs are different too: Tortoises have stocky, elephantine legs for moving on land, and turtles have webbed feet for swimming. Turtles and tortoises are found on every continent except Antarctica. But land tortoises are not found naturally in Australia.

A green sea turtle (top left), an Indian star tortoise (bottom left), and a yellow-bellied slider turtle (right)

The hardshell Hall of Fame

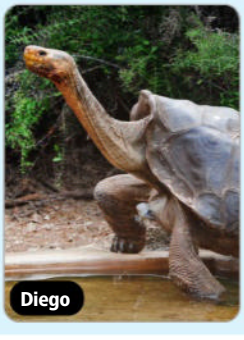
Yoshi

One famous turtle is a loggerhead named Yoshi, who traveled more than 24,000 miles following her release from an aquarium in South Africa.

Yoshi

Diego

This legendary Española giant tortoise is credited with saving his species from extinction in his native habitat, the Galápagos Islands. He fathered more than 800 tortoises as part of a breeding program.



Diego

GETTY IMAGES (10); TWO OCEANS AQUARIUM

land and sea

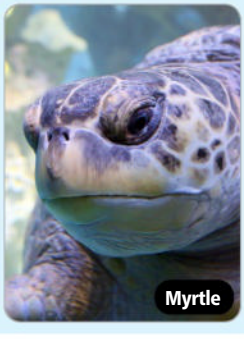
OCEAN SWIMMERS
There are seven species of sea turtles: green, loggerhead, leatherback, hawksbill, olive ridley, Kemp's ridley, and flatback.

VIVID VISION
Turtles and tortoises have good eyesight and are able to see a broader spectrum of colors than humans can.

DOWN BELOW
The deepest divers among turtles are leatherbacks, which can dive up to 4,000 feet underwater.

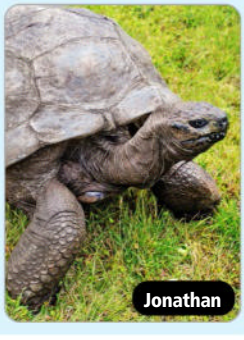
Myrtle

A 550-pound green sea turtle named Myrtle is a major draw at the New England Aquarium in Boston, where she has lived for 55-plus years. She loves to munch on cabbage, squid, and brussels sprouts.


Myrtle

Jonathan

At an estimated age of 194, Jonathan holds the world record for being the longest-living land animal. The Seychelles giant tortoise from the island of St. Helena has lived through the terms of 40 US Presidents.


Jonathan

A tortoise hatchling

A turtle's life cycle

While some turtles lay their eggs on land close to where they live, some swim thousands of miles to their preferred nesting sites. The leatherback turtle makes one of the longest migrations, traveling 3,700 miles each way. Once the turtles have picked a spot, they dig a nest to lay their eggs and then return to the sea. Different species can produce anywhere from one or two eggs to more than 100. Eggs take 45 to 75 days to hatch, and the gender of the turtle usually depends on the temperature—warmer weather leads to more females, and cooler climates result in more males. Once the eggs hatch, the turtle hatchlings dig their way out of the nest together. This phenomenon is referred to as a "turtle boil" because it resembles a pot of boiling water. They then make their way to the sea.

A healed loggerhead is released to the wild.

Conservation and challenges

Many turtles and tortoises are struggling to survive because of habitat loss, pollution, and the illegal pet trade. In parts of Asia, they are also illegally used for medicinal purposes. Many measures have been taken to protect turtles. In Florida, the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, one of several facilities that care for turtles, has been treating sick and injured animals since 1986. Agreements such as CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and IAC (Inter-American Convention) prohibit international sales of sea turtles. Many turtles are also protected under the Endangered Species Act in the US. Some turtle species, such as Kemp's ridley and the green turtle, are showing signs of recovery.

FLASHBACK! The oldest known dinosaurs walked on Earth during the Triassic period, about 225 million years ago.

A rendering of Ptychotherates bucculentus

Student discovers rare dinosaur

A college student identified a new dinosaur species that lived more than 200 million years ago, making it three times older than Tyrannosaurus rex. The creature is named Ptychotherates bucculentus, which means "folded hunter with full cheeks."

The dinosaur's skull was found in New Mexico in 1982. It sat in storage for more than 30 years until it was brought to a university, Virginia Tech, by Sterling Nesbitt, a geobiologist (scientist who studies interactions between Earth and living things). He asked first-year student Simba Srivastava to help study the skull. It's rare for a first-year student to perform such high-level research, and Srivastava jumped at the chance. He spent two years uncovering the fossil's story.

Simba Srivastava holding the fossil

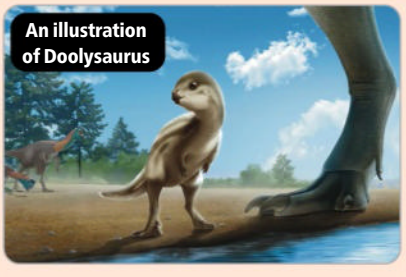
The dinosaur's skull was severely damaged. Its snout, jaws, and braincase (part of the skull that holds the brain) were flattened or folded over, and the team concluded that it was probably trampled before it was buried. "[It] looks as if it ran into a wall!" Srivastava told Discover. "Nevertheless, a lot of the skull is still there, including enough of the bones in the snout, jaws, and around the eyes to get an idea of what its face looked like."

Srivastava and Nesbitt took scans of the skull and used computer modeling to create digital and 3D-printed reconstructions of what it might have looked like. They found that the creature had huge cheekbones, a wide braincase, and most likely a short snout. These features were unusual for a dinosaur from this period, which led them to conclude that it was a new species: a carnivorous (meat-eating) dinosaur that belonged to a family of dinosaurs called Herrerasauria. It lived at the end of the Triassic period about 252 to 201 million years ago.

At that time, dinosaurs had not yet become the top predators that dominated the planet. They were still small or medium-sized creatures, and they had to compete for food and other resources with larger reptiles and mammals. Dinosaurs got much bigger after an extinction event killed off many other species.

The researchers think P. bucculentus could have been one of the last surviving herrerasaurians. "This specimen, it fits in my hands, but it is the only proof that any of these dinosaurs lived this long," Srivastava said. "All these billions of individuals that existed through time are spoken for by this one specimen."

A baby dino



An illustration of Doolysaurus

Scientists have discovered a juvenile dinosaur fossil on Aphae Island in South Korea. It's the first dinosaur to be identified in the country in the past 15 years and the first to include a skull. They named it Doolysaurus huhmini after a cartoon dinosaur named Dooly, who is famous in the country.

Most of the Doolysaurus huhmini fossil was encased in rock, with only a few bones from its legs and spine visible. Carefully removing it from the rock could have taken years. Instead, researchers used high-tech scans to see the rest of it inside the rock, including its skull. They determined that the dinosaur was about as big as a turkey and may have resembled a small, fuzzy lamb. They also saw little stones in its stomach, which it likely swallowed to help it digest small animals, insects, and plants.

Talking robot guide dog is a service animal

Dog owners communicate with their pets through head scratches, snuggles, and commands. Most dogs can learn to understand about 20 words, but for the most part, conversation with them is a one-way street. Now scientists at Binghamton University in New York have designed a robot dog that not only listens but talks too. It's designed to be a guide dog for people who are blind or visually impaired.

LONG HISTORY
The first guide dog school in the US, called the Seeing Eye, was founded in 1929.

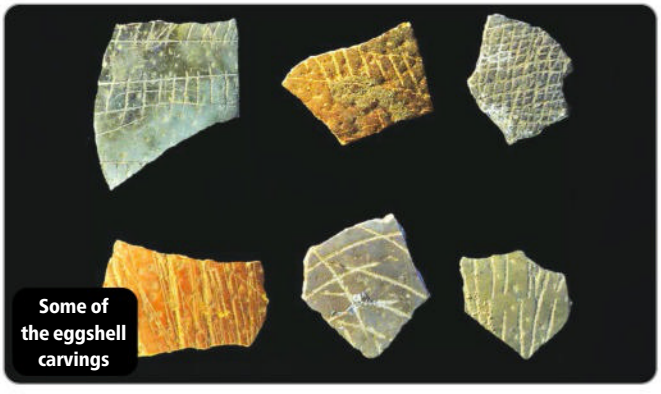
Guide dogs have been offering support to people with vision impairments for centuries. However, each one takes about two years to train and can cost thousands of dollars, and only about 5% of visually impaired people use them. Robot guide dogs could provide a less expensive and more accessible alternative.

The scientists previously created a robot guide dog that responded to tugs on a leash. The latest model uses artificial intelligence (AI, when a computer imitates human learning) to speak and respond to voice commands.

The robot was tested in an office setting by handlers who are legally blind. It asked its handlers if they wanted to go to an office conference room. When they said yes, it gave the handlers different options for how to get there. As they walked to the conference room, the robot described features of the office, such as its lobby.

Participants "were super excited... about the robots," said Shiqi Zhang, who led the study. "They really see the potential for the technology and hope to see this working."

The robot guide dog at work


Some of the eggshell carvings

Ancient humans had math skills

Carvings on 60,000-year-old ostrich eggshells indicated that early humans could draw patterns and understood basic geometry.

Scientists in Italy studied 112 shell fragments found in South Africa and Namibia. They had organized designs on them, like grids and diamonds, indicating that the early humans who made them understood parallel lines and right angles and intentionally rotated and repeated shapes to form patterns.

Silvia Ferrara, who led the study, said the eggshell drawings show careful planning, "as if the authors already had an overall image of the figure in mind before engraving it." This is a sign of early abstract thinking (the ability to imagine ideas, feelings, and other things we can't see or touch).

This ability would eventually help humans develop forms of communication based on symbols, including art and writing.

AMAZING INVENTION

Fiber that's made from potatoes

Fibe's founders

Materials used to make clothing, like cotton and polyester, require huge amounts of water and other resources to produce, which means they have a big environmental impact. A UK company, Fibe, wants to replace them with fibers made from potato farming waste.

Fibe plans to buy potato leaves and stems from farmers who would otherwise throw them away. The company said its fibers are soft and flexible and, once the process is refined, could use up to 99.7% less water and produce 82% fewer carbon emissions than cotton.

JONATHAN COHEN; TEXIER ET AL/ARCHAEOL SCI/2013; FIBE; ON LEFT PAGE: SIMBA SRIVASTAVA/ILLUSTRATION BY MEGAN SODANO FOR VIRGINIA TECH; JUN SEONG YI; SPENCER COPPAGE FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Photos of the week

All smiles
This week's photos celebrate International Dance Day, a global event on April 29. This image was taken in Kenya.

Show time
Dancers in a park in China wear traditional outfits.

High in the sky
In Italy, two acrobats soar in a synchronized aerial routine.

Fanning out
Participants unite during the finale of an annual dance festival in Java.

GETTY IMAGES (6)

Photos of the week

Dressed to impress
A competitor takes part in a Balinese dance contest held in Indonesia.

Jumping for joy
Men in the UK engage in an English folk dance using handkerchiefs.

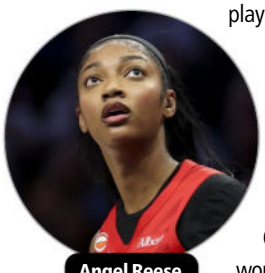
The Indiana Fever's Caitlin Clark, center, in game against the Dallas Wings on May 9

MAJOR MOVE
The owners of the NBA's Houston Rockets are buying the WNBA's Connecticut Sun and will move the team to Texas after this season.

WNBA's 30th season underway

On May 8, the 2026 WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) regular season began. This is the league's 30th season, and it has two new teams, the Toronto Tempo and the Portland Fire, bringing the total number of teams to 15. A record 216 games will air on national television, helping the WNBA reach more viewers than ever.

The offseason brought some important changes to the league. Players and team owners signed a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA), a type of legal document that outlines how the league pays and treats players. Some of the important changes include higher salaries, larger performance bonuses, and expanded rosters.



Angel Reese

The Las Vegas Aces are the WNBA's defending champions, and they are seeking their fourth title in five years. They are led by A'ja Wilson, who was the league's Most Valuable Player for each of the last two seasons. Along with the Aces, the New York Liberty, the Indiana Fever, and the Atlanta Dream are among the teams expected to be championship contenders.

Top players to watch this season include 2026 number one overall draft pick Azzi Fudd, who has joined her former University of Connecticut teammate Paige Bueckers on the Dallas Wings; former Chicago Sky star Angel Reese, who is now on the Dream; and Fever star Caitlin Clark, who has recovered from injuries that kept her from playing most of last season.

Opening weekend featured several exciting games, starting with a rematch of the 2025 WNBA Finals, with the Aces facing the Phoenix Mercury, on May 9. The Aces swept the Mercury last October, but this time the Mercury won, 99–66. Another big game that day, between the Wings and the Fever, included the last four top overall draft picks: Clark and Aliyah Boston of the Fever, and Bueckers and Fudd of the Wings. The Wings won, 107–104.

The same day, the Dream completed a thrilling second-half comeback to beat the Minnesota Lynx, 91–90. Atlanta had trailed by 15 points at halftime. Te-Hina Paopao hit the game-winning shot with 12 seconds left, and Reese blocked the Lynx's final shot attempt to secure the victory.

Celebrating the league's history

THIRTY

The idea to create the WNBA was approved in 1996, and the first season tipped off on June 21, 1997, with a game between the New York Liberty and the Los Angeles Sparks. The WNBA had eight teams during its opening season. The Houston Comets won the league's first four championship titles.

The Sparks, the Liberty, and the Phoenix Mercury are the only three original teams still active today. To celebrate the WNBA's 30th anniversary, in certain games they will wear throwback uniforms featuring the WNBA's original logo. The league also has a special logo (above) and will release anniversary products and share a list of the 30 greatest plays in WNBA history on its app and social media.

DID YOU KNOW?
Three-point shots became an official part of NCAA basketball games in 1986.

NCAA tournaments to expand

A big change is coming to college basketball. On May 7, the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) announced that next March, the tournaments that determine the men's and women's NCAA Division I national champions—an event known as March Madness—will each expand from 68 to 76 teams. One reason for the change is to give more colleges an opportunity to compete on a national stage.

Each March Madness tournament features a main bracket system with 64 teams, and that will not change. The 68 teams that were selected for the competition earned spots by winning their conference or being selected by a committee. The eight lowest-seeded (ranked) teams took part in First Four games, where they played to win four open spots in the main bracket.

In the new format, the First Four will be replaced by an Opening Round. Instead of eight teams playing four games, 24 teams will compete in 12 games, all taking place in the days before the main tournament begins. The teams in the Opening Round will include 12 automatic qualifiers, usually smaller conference champions, and 12 at-large teams from larger conferences.

The expansion is good news for coaches and athletic directors from major conferences, who have argued that strong teams are sometimes left out of the tournament due to the former 68-team limit. Critics, however, believe the tournament is large enough and that the added games are just a way for the NCAA to make more money. Some fans also worry the extra games could make the event feel less special.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Catherine Furman Hancock**

School: **Solana Highlands Elementary (PE class)**

"Coach Cat encourages kids to do their very best and try new things. If you make a mistake, she helps you get better and gives you tips. She is always kind and never yells. If someone gets hurt, she helps them and makes them feel better. At the end of the month, she recognizes kids that go above and beyond and show good sportsmanship. Those kids are then given awards at our school assemblies. I think she is the best coach ever!" Kinsley, 9, California

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

MORE BIG MOMENTS

FC Barcelona

CLUB SOCCER

On May 10, in a La Liga rivalry matchup known as El Clasico, FC Barcelona defeated Real Madrid, 2–0. Marcus Rashford and Ferran Torres scored the goals. With the victory, Barcelona clinched the Spanish league's title for the second season in a row and the 29th time overall. It is the first time they won it during an El Clasico.

Jackson Blake

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

In the Stanley Cup playoffs on May 9, the Carolina Hurricanes beat the Philadelphia Flyers, 3–2, in overtime to complete a 4–0 sweep of their playoff series and advance to the conference finals. Jackson Blake scored two goals for the Canes, including the game winner. The team has an 8–0 record in the playoffs this year.

Rachel Entrekin

ULTRA MARATHON

After more than two days of running, Rachel Entrekin won the Cocodona 250, a 250-mile race in Arizona, on May 6. She is the first female to win, and she beat all other racers, male and female. She set a new course record with a time of 56 hours, 9 minutes, and 48 seconds, and said she slept a total of 19 minutes during the race.

GETTY IMAGES (4); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); WNBA

WOW!
Writer Bill Finger was inspired to name Batman's hometown Gotham City after seeing a business called Gotham Jewelers.

Lego Batman: Legacy of the Dark Knight

New game stars Lego Batman

Players will be able to explore the character's history and battle supervillains.

The superhero Batman has been part of pop culture for more than 85 years, and that long history has inspired a new video game. Lego Batman: Legacy of the Dark Knight is an adventure that mixes crime-fighting action with humor. It will be released on May 22 for the Nintendo Switch 2, Xbox systems, PlayStation 5, and PC.

Batman, whose alter ego is billionaire Bruce Wayne, originated as a DC Comics hero. The caped crusader began appearing on screen in the 1940s. There was a popular Batman TV series in the 1960s, and since then, the character has starred in several animated series and films, including *Bat-Fam*, which was released last year. The animated Lego version of Batman had his own hit animated film in 2017.

Lego Joker

This is the fourth video game in the Lego Batman series and the first new one since 2014. Several features make Legacy of the Dark Knight different from previous games. One major difference is that the new game has an open-world map, which allows players to explore every dark corner of Gotham City, where Batman fights criminals. Famous sites such as Arkham Asylum, Wayne Tower, the Batcave, and Ace Chemicals have been made with Lego bricks for the game.

The story in Legacy of the Dark Knight begins with young Bruce Wayne training with the League of Shadows. It follows him as he becomes Gotham's hero and mixes in storylines, scenes, and character designs from decades of different Batman stories. For example, the game uses Lego figures and bricks to reimagine a famous scene from the 1989 movie *Batman*, where the Joker and his crew break into an art museum.

There are seven playable characters in the first edition of Legacy of the Dark Knight, including Robin, Batgirl, and Catwoman. More will be added to the game in downloadable content over time. Each character has their own special gadgets, which can be unlocked throughout the game. Batman has the grappling hook and Batarang, while Catwoman carries her iconic whip. There are also 100 different costumes and Batsuits to collect and more than 20 vehicles to use.

Another big change from past Lego Batman games is that Legacy of the Dark Knight has a real combat system, with counters, dodges, and timed moves. That adds a bit of challenge to what has been a mostly silly series, giving the game a longer playtime and making it more rewarding to beat.

Another fun new release

A new side-scrolling platformer video game starring Yoshi, the beloved dinosaur character from Nintendo's Super Mario universe and *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*, is coming to the Nintendo Switch 2. Yoshi and the Mysterious Book will be released on May 21.

In the game, a talking encyclopedia named Mr. E lands on Yoshi's Island, and he doesn't remember anything about the words and creatures contained on his pages. Yoshi literally enters Mr. E's pages to discover, study, and identify the creatures inside. Each section of the book has its own animals and plant life. As Yoshi interacts with them, he learns details such as how they taste or how they react to getting hit with eggs. The main baddie is Bowser Jr., who causes chaos during Yoshi's adventures.

MOVIE TRIVIA
Characters and locations in the animated film *Cars* were inspired by Route 66.

Art and images from Route 66

Events and art to honor Route 66

This year is the 100th anniversary of Route 66, a famous former highway that stretches more than 2,000 miles, from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California. It is known as the Mother Road.

Celebrations for the centennial have begun. Throughout the year, there will be festivals, exhibitions, and other activities across the eight states that Route 66 passes through. Additionally, the US Postal Service recently released a set of Forever stamps featuring images from along the route. The photographs were taken by David J. Schwartz, who told the AP he hopes the stamps will inspire people to drive on the road, support the small businesses on it, and "keep Route 66 alive for another 100 years."

One of the stamps

Many businesses on Route 66 still look like they did when they were built, complete with vintage neon signs and other roadside art. Two famous characters are the hot dogs from the Cozy Dog Drive In, located in Springfield, Illinois (above, top right), a sponsor of a Route 66 exhibition at the Illinois State Museum. Several classic neon signs can be found in Albuquerque, New Mexico, including one for the Dog House drive-in restaurant (top left). The city will celebrate 66 Day on June 6 and is hosting *Route 66 Remixed*, an art show with 20 large installations. It includes wrapped buses (bottom left) and an augmented reality experience, which lets visitors use their mobile phones to see 3D animated graphics at local sites.

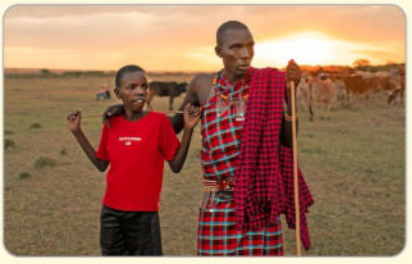
Classic cars (bottom right) are a big part of the festivities. On May 30 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, people will attempt to set a world record for the largest classic car parade. Among the other events is a nine-day classic, antique, and vintage car road race from Springfield, Illinois, to Pasadena, California, which begins on June 20.

READER RECOMMENDS

Liv and Maddie *(Disney+ or rent on major platforms)*
"This funny show follows the adventures of twin sisters Liv and Maddie (both played by Dove Cameron) along with their brothers and parents. Liv is a popular actor, and Maddie is the star of her school's basketball team. They usually get along, but when Liv comes home from Hollywood, they have to share a bedroom and learn to deal with their differences. I like Liv because you get to see life from a star's point of view. In my favorite episode, Liv wins an award, and her grandma, who is also a twin, does a switcheroo with her own sister. The show teaches that you should follow your dreams." Claire, 10, Ohio

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

3 MORE PICKS TO ENJOY THIS WEEK



WATCH: SHARED PLANET

Find out how people worldwide are creatively living alongside wildlife in this four-part documentary special. Expect to see oyster reef restoration in New York City's harbor, African communities coexisting with lions, beaver-powered wetlands in Idaho, and orangutan habitat restoration in Indonesia. (PBS)

PLAY: CROSSPLAY

New York Times Games now has a head-to-head word game that is similar to Scrabble. It involves two players taking turns building words on a shared board using letter tiles. Each letter has a point value, and special spaces can boost your score. You can play against friends or the computer. (nytimes.com/games/crossplay)

WATCH: STAR WARS: THE MANDALORIAN AND GROGU

This sci-fi adventure (rated PG-13) features the characters from the TV series *The Mandalorian*: bounty hunter Din Djarin and his apprentice, Grogu, a small creature resembling a young Yoda. In the big-screen story, they are recruited to find dangerous warlords. (In theaters on May 22)

CAROL M. HIGHSMITH VIA LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; COURTESY THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM; COURTESY THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE; COURTESY THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MO; USPS; DISNEY; RYAN WILKES; THE NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY; LUCASFILM; ON LEFT PAGE: WARNER BROS. GAMES (2); NINTENDO

THIS WEEK'S BOOK

The Shark Prince

By Malia Maunakea

Thirteen-year-old Nohea is half-human, half-shark. He knows he'll fully transform into a shark one day and worries he'll hurt someone just like his father did. His dad, who was also cursed as a shark, killed a surfer and vanished.

To avoid temptation, Nohea is homeschooled and doesn't eat meat. He spends a lot of his free time surfing.

When he learns that his mom wants to leave the Hawaiian island of Oahu because she can no longer afford to live there, he becomes determined to earn enough money to allow them to remain. He discovers a local surfing competition with a big prize, but there's a catch: Contestants need to be part of a school group.

Nohea enrolls in the public school for seventh grade and joins the surf team. After he's bullied, he starts to show more of his shark side, growing teeth and a fin. He starts blacking out. As kids mysteriously begin to disappear from school, Nohea worries that he had something to do with it but just can't remember. Is he responsible?

Steeped in Hawaiian mythology, this fantasy novel is about taking chances and learning it's hard to get help if you never ask. *Ages 8–12*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Why does Nohea struggle to trust his instincts?

Have you ever felt you had to hide something about yourself to fit in?

Would you want to be friends with Nohea?

What do you think Nohea's shark-like teeth are a metaphor for?

Which supporting character would you like to read more about?

What fact about Hawaiian culture in the book was the biggest surprise to you?

Did you feel satisfied with the way the book concluded? Explain your answer.

Find your next great read

If you liked…

Amulet: The Stonekeeper

By Kazu Kibuishi

In the opener of this graphic novel series, siblings move to their adopted grandfather's mansion and find a glowing amulet (magical object). When their mother is lured into a dark world, will they be able to save her? *Ages 8–12*

You might like…

Lightfall: The Girl & the Galdurian

By Tim Probert

This first installment of a graphic novel series also focuses on a family member who goes missing. After her grandfather disappears, Bea and a member of the Galdurians set out to find him in a magical world. *Ages 8–12*

Guess the book this quote comes from

"Open your heart. Someone will come. Someone will come for you. But first you must open your heart."

Hint: This illustrated novel by a beloved children's author includes the name of the rabbit protagonist in the title.

Answer: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo. A doll gives this advice to Edward, a porcelain rabbit, after he endured a long, heartbreaking journey.

THIS WEEK'S AUTHOR

Malia Maunakea

Born and raised in Hawaii, Malia Maunakea writes books that blend modern adventure and traditional legends. After seeing her son's love of stories based in Greek mythology, she started writing books full of the tales she grew up hearing in Hawaii.

What inspired *The Shark Prince*?

This book came out of a trip I took to the west side of Oahu for a school visit to talk about another book I wrote, *Lei and the Invisible Island*. I showed the students that book's cover, which had a shark on it. They asked about the shark and shared a local Hawaiian legend about the demigod Nanaue, a man born with a shark's mouth on his back. They were all so excited about him that I was motivated to dive deeper. I like to have a legend that I'm deriving a story from.

Is Nohea based on anyone?

He's a mix of a few folks, and he struggles with impulsivity, making friends, and not upsetting the people around him. In my own struggles with ADHD, I know it can be a tricky feeling.

What do you want children to take away from this book?

This story is set in a super-beautiful location. But it really comes down to a child who is trying to fit in, who isn't sure how to control himself, and who's trying to help his family. That can be applicable anywhere, no matter where you are.

What did you like to read as a child?

I grew up reading a lot of Greek mythology and Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*. I went to the library to read all the Garfield and Far Side comics I loved. As I got older, I started getting into spookier books, especially those written by R.L. Stine and Christopher Pike. They were just the right amount of scary, and I felt brave reading them and carrying them onto the school bus.

Did you have a favorite Hawaiian legend when you were growing up?

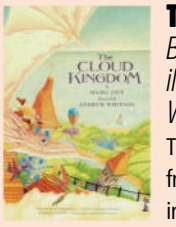
I really loved the legends of Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fires and volcanoes. She was so pervasive and apparent in daily life that it was impossible to ignore her. She was such a temperamental but relatable woman.

Did you love the water, like Nohea?

Yes! I boogie boarded and learned to surf as a teen.

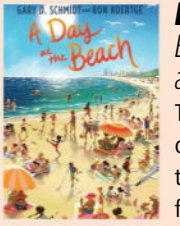
3 new short story collections

With these quick reads, you may be able to finish a story in a single sitting.



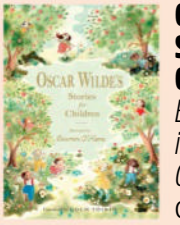
The Cloud Kingdom
By Máire Zepf, illustrated by Andrew Whitson

This beautiful anthology from Ireland has eight interconnecting tales about a storyteller who makes a deal with the Fairy King to save her cat. Some of the stories' whimsical topics include a giant who weaves dreams from ribbons and a creature who brings ideas in the form of flowers. The illustrations are dreamy to explore. *Ages 8–12*



A Day at the Beach
By Gary D. Schmidt and Ron Koertge

This novel consists of 28 vignettes (scenes) that chronicle a single day from dawn to dusk. The scenes, which are similar to short stories, intertwine to create a swath of beachgoers, including a girl with a stray dog and a boy who can't swim. With more than two dozen characters, this humorous, heartfelt book is an exciting summer read. *Ages 8–12*



Oscar Wilde's Stories for Children
By Oscar Wilde, illustrated by Lauren O'Hara

Oscar Wilde (1854–1900) was a famous Irish poet, playwright, and author of short stories. This keepsake collection with a ribbon bookmark includes a half-dozen stories first published in 1888. *The Happy Prince* and *The Selfish Giant* are two favorites from this new, beautifully illustrated edition. *Ages 8+*

Reader recommends

It Came from the Trees *by Ally Russell*

"Jenna's grandfather was the first Black park ranger at Sturbridge Pines Reservation. But when she goes on a camping trip to the woods there with her scout troop, her best friend Reese gets taken by a beast. Jenna knows what happened, but no one believes the story—even Jenna's own mother. Everyone thinks Reese ran away. Will she ever figure out what is stalking her? Will her troop believe her story? Will Reese ever be found? Read to find out!" Lennie, 9, Texas

Do you have a book to recommend? We want to hear about it! With an adult's help, please send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Find out more about *The Week Junior* Book Club and check out our previous titles at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: KAHIKI PHOTOGRAPHY; GETTY IMAGES

A NATION REFLECTS
The first-ever National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC, was held in 2005.

Honor Memorial Day

Remember the US service members who gave their lives for our country.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday commemorated each year on the last Monday in May. It's a special day to mourn and honor any American service member who has died. This year, Memorial Day will take place on May 25. Here are ways you can take part.

March in a parade

Traditionally, Memorial Day parades feature veterans groups and military units and may also include first responders such as firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical workers. Many towns also invite youth groups to march. If you're a scout, on a sports or dance team, or part of another youth activity, ask your leader to contact parade organizers to see if your group can be part of this year's parade. Another option is to attend a parade with your family.

You can pay your respects.

Decorate a veteran's grave

If any of your relatives have died while serving in the military, your family could visit their grave and decorate it with a plant, flowers, or an American flag. If you don't have a personal connection, you can search "veterans cemetery" with your zip code to see if there's one near you. With an adult, you can visit and follow the tradition of placing a penny on top of a veteran's gravestone to indicate that you have been there to pay your respects.

Get creative

The poppy is a symbol of sacrifice and remembrance. To make paper poppies, start by taking two red cupcake liners and pressing them flat. With scissors, cut one to be a little smaller than the other. Snip some curves on both liners to make petals. Use a black marker to dot the center of the small liner, then glue it on top of the large one. Color a craft stick green, and glue it to the back as a stem. If you make several poppies, you could sell them, with an adult's help, for $1 each and donate the money to your local VFW or American Legion. Other ways to honor the day are to hang a flag, make one in chalk on your sidewalk, or draw it in crayon or marker on paper to place in a window.

Pause to pay tribute

The National Moment of Remembrance is a moment of silence that occurs at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day. No matter where you are, you can stop to remember the sacrifices of those who gave their lives to ensure our freedoms.

History of a holiday

In the final years of the Civil War (1861–1865), communities in the North and South decorated soldiers' graves with flowers on springtime "decoration days."

The first widely recognized Decoration Day observance was held on May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery and honored both Union and Confederate soldiers. After World War I (1914–1918), the day expanded to remember Americans who died in all wars, and the name "Memorial Day" became commonly used.

In the late 1960s, Congress moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May. In 1971, it was made a federal holiday and officially renamed Memorial Day.

FRUIT FACT
A coconut is not a nut. It's a one-seeded drupe, which is a stone fruit like peaches, cherries, and apricots.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the oven.

Bake up coconut crumb shrimp

Ingredients

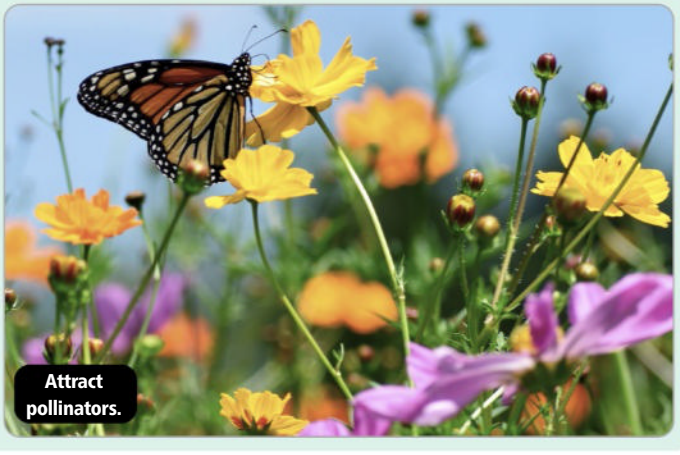
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup unsweetened coconut flakes
- ⅓ cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- ¾ cup flour
- 1 teaspoon lime zest
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 24 raw peeled and deveined jumbo shrimp
- Thai-style sweet chili sauce, for serving

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 425° F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Whisk the eggs together in a small bowl. In another bowl, combine the coconut flakes and panko. Add the oil and toss to coat evenly. In a third bowl, stir together the flour, lime zest, salt, and pepper.
3. Coat each piece of shrimp by first tossing it in the flour, then egg, and finally in the coconut mixture, taking care to cover the shrimp completely with the contents of each bowl. Place on the baking sheet and repeat with the remaining shrimp, spacing them evenly.
4. Bake the shrimp for about 15 minutes, flipping them halfway, until cooked through and the outer coating is golden in most spots. Serve immediately with chili sauce for dipping. Makes about 4–6 servings.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK: CREATE A CORNER FOR WILDLIFE

"No Mow May" is a catchy name for a movement to avoid mowing lawns in the month of May. This helps to preserve long grasses as a habitat for grasshoppers and other insects. It also preserves lawn flowers, such as dandelions and clover, for early-season pollinators like bees and butterflies. Talk to your family about not mowing the lawn, or leaving a section unmowed, and about what other steps you can take outside your home to protect wildlife. For example, you could discuss converting a patch of lawn into a "wild corner" of pollinator-friendly plants such as lavender, milkweed, and black-eyed Susans.



Attract pollinators.

JOY HOWARD; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Word search

Can you find all these words associated with teeth? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

		C	A	P	S				T	E	R	O		
	R	E	A	M	L	T	M	O	L	A	R	R	H	
S	A	E	I	V	B	A	B	Y	T	E	E	T	H	R
O	E	L	N	D	I	N	Q	R	O	T	S	H	B	S
C	E	Y	O	I	N	T	A	U	E	E	S	O	B	S
K	U	R	T	P	A	T	Y	T	E	N	H	D	O	O
E	T	I	B	S	H	T	I	N	C	I	S	O	R	L
T	E	A	P	U	K	C	E	H	C	N	U	N	Y	F
	H	F	A	C	V	E	C	R	E	A	R	T	R	
		H	G	N	I	N	A	E	L	C	B	I		
		T	N	A	E	E	M	E	T	L	N	S		
		O	W	L	D	E	N	T	I	S	T	T		
		O	C	H	I	I		A	E	C	A	H		
		T	O	O	R				M	I	S	P		
		D	M	U	O				W	E	H	C		
			O	C	U				H	H	L			
			H	O	L				I	A	R			
				D	F				T	E				
					R				E					

BABY TEETH
BITE
BRUSH
CANINE
CAPS
CAVITY
CHECKUP
CHEW
CLEANING
CLENCH
CUSPID
DENTIST
ENAMEL
FLOSS
FLUORIDE
FOOD
INCISOR
LOOSE
MOLAR
ORTHODONTIST
PASTE
PLAQUE
RETAINER
RINSE
ROOT
SMILE
SOCKET
TARTAR
TOOTH FAIRY
WHITE

OFF SIDES

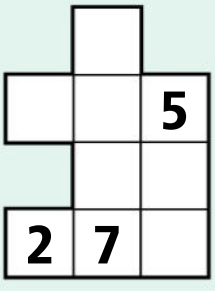
Make three different five-letter words by using the letters given to fill in the blanks.

E M N P T Y

_ O I S _
_ O I S _
_ O I S _

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



Fill in the blanks

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words so the second word is the same as the first word with a pair of double letters inserted, like CLAY and CLASSY. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. For our art project, we went to the store to ___ ___ ___ cotton balls to make tails for each of our hand-drawn ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ rabbits.
2. Before the graduation ceremony, our teacher had everyone line up single ___ ___ ___ ___ and told us not to ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ around with the tassels on our caps.
3. A woman on the beach was handing out ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ for a local scuba shop where you could rent snorkels and ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a snail, a frog, and a turtle appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Fill in the blanks hint: Both words in sentence 3 begin with FL.

Running on a spotless record

A candidate to clean up politics

A water-filled vacuum cleaner named Swifty became the first non-living object to run for mayor of Staines, a town in the UK. In advance of local elections, Swifty launched a Taking Care of Staines campaign, offering free cleaning tools and volunteers to help community projects. From tidying gardens to polishing park benches, Swifty promised to help the town shine. Campaign manager Ben Fogg said the cordless cleaner wanted "no more dirty politics" and hoped to draw attention to the election.

They served up a success.

Oodles of noodles break record

A sizzling world record was set in California when 35 restaurants worked together to sell 1,337 bowls of pad Thai in 60 minutes. This delicious effort was part of the 17th annual Thai New Year Festival in Hollyood's Thai Town, the largest celebration of its kind held outside Thailand. The event broke the previous record of 1,000 plates of the stir-fried noodle dish. While setting a world record is always exciting, one of the organizers said the main goal was to highlight the Thai community.

Hear that engine roar!

Hit the road in a dragon car

If you've ever wondered what it would be like to ride a dragon, here's the next best thing. "The Dragons of Eden," an unusual vehicle created for the Burning Man Festival in Nevada, is on sale for about $50,000. Made from an old RV, the 32-foot-long vehicle features seven fire-breathing dragon heads. It was designed by mechanical engineer Lucy Hosking and can fit about 20 people in the main interior. And despite being a work of art, it meets the requirements to be legally driven on public roads.

Real or fake?

Ready to rumble?

Measuring cheers with Jell-O

Sports fans across the US may soon measure the excitement of a game using Jell-O wobbles. The brand that makes the famous gelatin dessert has built a machine called a Jell-Ometer, which listens to the noise of the crowd and transforms the sound into movement on a plate of Jell-O. The louder the cheers, the more the Jell-O shakes. The excitement is measured on a "jiggles" scale from 1 to 10. Recently during an ice hockey game, the Jell-Ometer reached 8.4 jiggles. Is this true, or are the facts a little shaky?*

*Real! Jell-O debuted the Jell-Ometer at a recent New York Islanders hockey game. Now the brand is asking people to nominate their sports teams on social media to see which passionate fanbase the Jell-Ometer will measure next.

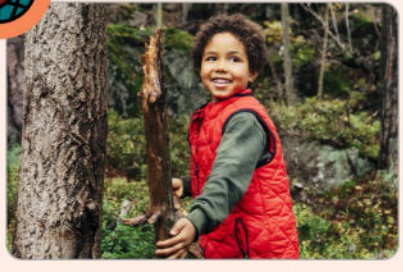
PAYTON ELLIOTT SCHWARZ/SPECIAL TO SFGATE; GETTY IMAGES; PINPEP; THE KRAFT HEINZ COMPANY; ADOBE STOCK. ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Editor's note

Have you ever traveled along Route 66? It's one of the most famous roadways in America—a span of more than 2,000 miles, stretching through eight states from Illinois to California. This year is the 100th anniversary of the opening of the highway, and special events and exhibitions are taking place now and in the months to come. We highlight some of them this week in our Arts and Entertainment section (p21), and our coverage will continue in future issues. It seems fitting that such an iconic part of the country (also called the "Mother Road" and "Main Street of America") would be celebrating a big birthday at the same time the nation is marking a major milestone. Be on the lookout for our coverage of America's 250th anniversary, which will also continue through the year in *The Week Junior*. For information about a way you can take part in our celebration, see the red box below.

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Trees, Water & People

The goal of this organization is to improve the lives of people in Central America and the US by protecting, conserving, and managing natural resources. The group, founded in 1998, engages with local communities by planting trees and reducing deforestation. Since its founding, the group has planted about 7 million trees. Find out more at treeswaterpeople.org.

Speaking up for change

"I testified before the Maryland General Assembly to support a bill that would include Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) history in our classrooms. This is my third year doing this because it really matters to me. In my social studies classes, Asian American history is still mostly missing. That means I've had to teach myself about AAPI history and contributions. I don't think students should have to do this just to feel seen. That's why I keep showing up and speaking up. I want classrooms where everyone can see themselves in what they learn."

Miles (second from right), 11, Maryland, and his family

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

JOKE OF THE WEEK
Which state is the most paved over?
"Rhode" Island

Help us celebrate America's 250th!

At *The Week Junior*, we're gearing up to mark the 250th anniversary of America. We're inviting our readers to celebrate with us! To highlight the many places and people that make up the fabric of our nation, please send us a photo of yourself taken in front of a special spot in your hometown, such as a school, park, statue, or memorial. Ask an adult to email your photo to *hello@theweekjunior.com* with a description of where your photo was taken and My Hometown in the subject line. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page later this year.

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

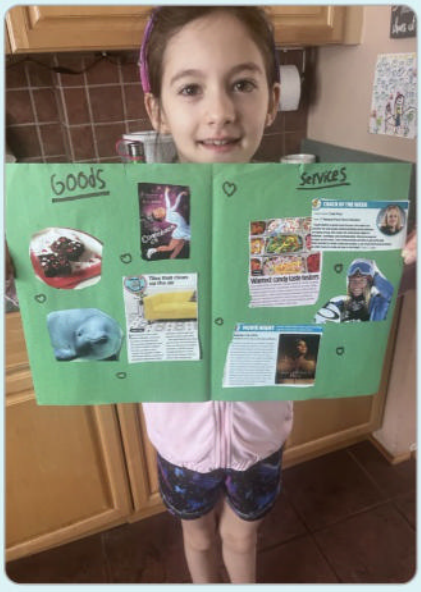
Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"I liked making these muffins, and they were delicious!" Rollie, 9, Minnesota

"I visited Spain and I carried *The Week Junior* with me that featured the photo of Plaza de España in Seville. Reading the magazine is my favorite thing to do during my free time." Inaaya, 6, New Jersey



"I made posters using cutouts from *The Week Junior* for my fifth grade social studies project." Madeline, 10, New York

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Phil Weber**

School Name: **Countryside School**

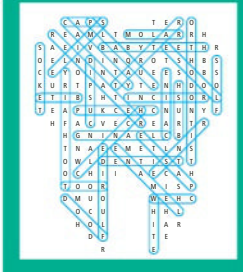
"Mr. Weber is a very fun teacher. He always lets you tell him what's wrong, and you can always be very open with him. Mr. Weber comes up with interesting writing assignments that help me with different things, like writer's block and not being able to find facts. He's also able to connect with kids and what they think."

Maya, 10, Illinois

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Unused letters: Teeth are not bones but they have enamel, which is much harder.

Off sides	Fill in the blanks
moist	1. buy, bunny
noisy	2. file, fiddle
poise	3. fliers, flippers

	8	
6	3	5
	9	1
2	7	4

Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 False. All tortoises are turtles, but not all turtles are tortoises. **2** b) Surfing **3** c) The Mother Road **4** Cloud jaguars **5** True **6** a) Triassic **7** c) 216 **8** *Schmigadoon!* **9** True **10** a) CNN **11** Olivia **12** b) 76 **13** False. It is the fourth. **14** c) Rio de Janeiro **15** Vacuum cleaner

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 True or false? All turtles are tortoises.

True ☐ False ☐

2 In the novel *The Shark Prince*, what kind of competition does Noah enter to help his family stay on Oahu?

a) Sailing b) Surfing c) Swimming

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 The US highway Route 66 is also known as what?

a) The Destiny Road

b) The Freedom Road

c) The Mother Road

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 What term describes jaguars that live at high elevations?

5 True or false? Danny Burstein recently became the most-nominated male performer in Tony Awards history.

True ☐ False ☐

6 The newly discovered dinosaur species Ptychotherates bucculentus lived during which time period?

a) Triassic b) Jurassic

c) Cretaceous

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 How many Women's National Basketball Association games are set to air on national television this season?

a) 116 b) 156 c) 216

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

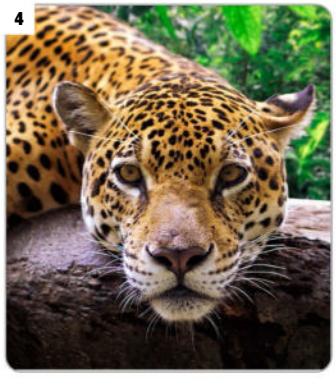
8 What is the name of the new Broadway musical written by Cinco Paul?

3

13

14

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.



4

7

9 True or false? About 5% of people who are visually impaired use guide dogs.

True ☐ False ☐

10 In the year 1980, Ted Turner transformed television by launching which 24-hour cable news network?

a) CNN b) Fox News

c) MSNBC

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 What was the most popular name for girls in the US in 2025?

12 The men's and women's college basketball tournaments are expanding to each include how many total teams?

a) 66

b) 76

c) 86

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? Lego Batman: Legacy of the Dark Knight is the first video game in the Lego Batman series.

True ☐ False ☐

14 Four blue-and-yellow macaws were recently reintroduced into a forest near which Brazilian city?

a) Brasília

b) São Paulo

c) Rio de Janeiro

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 What type of household appliance ran for mayor of the town of Staines in the UK?

THE WEEK Junior

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